

### The University and its Graduates

The university is not satisfied with its work unless each graduate is doing something to bless his race. The last Sunday before Commencement the graduates are given an opportunity to express their plans to carry on the thought of the school, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister." It is estimated that from fifteen to twenty thousand colored youths are annually taught by those who have received their equipment to teach from Fisk University. All through the South are schools taught by graduates of Fisk who try to carry out their work as nearly as possible like that of their alma mater.

Among the alumni of Fisk may be mentioned: President B. F. Ousley, of the Normal Institute, Mound Bayou, Miss.; President Paul L. La Cour, Douglas Academy, Lawndale, N. C.; Rev. Alfred O. Coffin, M.A., president of Booker T. Washington School, Kansas City, Mo.; William E. B. DuBois, professor economics and history, Atlanta University; T. S. Inborden, president J. K. Brick Agricultural and Normal School, Enfield, N. C.; Rev. H. H. Proctor, Atlanta, Ga.; Mrs. Bishop Phillips, Nashville, Tenn.; Mrs. Booker T. Washington, Tuskegee, Ala.; President J. W. Work, assistant professor of Latin, Fisk University; Rev. G. W. Moore, district superintendent American Missionary Association; Dr. L. B. Moore, dean Teachers' College, Howard University; Dr. Allen A. Wesley, physician and surgeon, Chicago; Joseph L. Wiley, president Fessenden Academy, Fessenden, Fla.; Benj. F. Cox, president Albany Normal School, Albany, Ga.; William O. Pou, member of the Royal College of Surgeons, England, and others.

Chaplain Cravath, who was president from 1875 to 1900, was succeeded by Rev. Dr. James G. Merrill, who was elected president in 1901 and resigned in 1908. The university is now conducted by a Committee of Administration, consisting of H. H. Wright, dean; W. G. Waterman, finance; and D. H. Scribner, register.

### The Greatest Influence of Fisk

In writing of Fisk University, its history, its work and its influence, President Merrill said, just before his resignation: "Perhaps the most pervasive and beneficent influence exerted by Fisk University has come through the Christian homes presided over by liberally educated men and women. Quite naturally those who are associated in college and school life form life alliances, and greatly does Fisk rejoice in a son whose rank as a scholar along sociological lines is worldwide, in an-

other who is a dean, in others who are clergymen, others who have won success as lawyers; but even more than these they who, like the gifted wife of the principal of Tuskegee, are at the head of Christian homes. In no other way than through such homes is the welfare of the negro in America to be secured."

The chief asset of Fisk University is its student body, those who are upon the ground, and its alumni. To one attending morning prayers in Livingstone Chapel a sight is met alike pathetic and inspiring. They come from nearly thirty states and territories. Not wealth, not place, but ability to lift up their fellows is the goal placed before them, and few of those who receive the diploma of Fisk fail to reach this goal.

### "Overcoming Tremendous Odds"

One of our young men was urging his fellow-students to use the obstacles which they meet as stepping stones for their success. He said: "We must have the spirit of an old mule on my father's farm. He had outlived his usefulness. Die he wouldn't, and kill him we couldn't. We could not afford to keep him. It became a family problem what to do with him. One day in wandering about the pasture he fell into a dry well; we thought that Providence had solved the question for us. We had no means to extricate him; the only alternative was to bury him alive. We gathered about the open well. 'Bring the shovels,' said father, and the dirt began to fall upon his back. He trod it under his feet. More dirt fell, this he also trod under his feet until at last he came out on top, and there is where we are going to come."

The pluck and perseverance which will enable a young man to work twelve months in a year for three years in the academy, four in the college, and four in the professional school is the marked characteristic of the boys and young men whom we are trying to train.

### A Tribute to the Spirit of Fisk

In the light of the life of the university it is not to be wondered at that a leading Southern gentleman, the pastor of the largest Southern Presbyterian church of Nashville, said at the funeral of President Cravath, our first president, "If the spirit which breathed in President Cravath lived in his work, and is represented by you who constitute Fisk University obtained through the South and North, there would be no race question."